

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF VOLUTE. BY W. J. BRODERIP,
ESQ., F.R.S. ETC.

VOLUTA SIGNIFER. *Vol. testâ ovato-fusiformi, longitudinaliter creberrimè lineatâ, subflavâ, signis spadiceo-brunneis irregularibus, interruptis vittatâ; spirâ mediocri, subtumidâ, apice subacuto-mammillari, glabro; anfractibus 3, ultimo longè maximo, subventricoso; labro acuto; columellâ quadruplicatâ, plicis magnis.*

Long. $3\frac{5}{8}$, lat. $1\frac{5}{8}$ poll.

Hab. In Oceano Orientali?

Two bands of detached, reddish-brown, irregular, interrupted spots wreath the spiral whorls, and three such bands, with a trace of a fourth, adorn the body-whorl. There is a wide interval between the upper two of the bands of the body-whorl, and the third and trace of the fourth on the same whorl. An irregular linear dash of the same colour connects the three uppermost of these bands longitudinally and centrally. Indeed the colour seems disposed generally to run from the upper to the lower band of each pair. The terminal notch is very deep and is surmounted by an unusually strong elevated ridge.

The specimen is faded and rubbed, but in form is nearly perfect. When in fine condition *V. signifera* must be one of the most elegant of the beautiful family to which it belongs.

Mr. Cuming obtained this Volute in the present year, from the cabinet of Dr. Dalen of Rotterdam, by whom it was liberally presented to him, although Dr. Dalen had no other example of the shell. I never saw the species before, and as far as my experience goes, this is the only specimen known.—*Proc. Zool. Soc., Dec. 12, 1847.*

Extract from a Letter addressed, in June 1848, by Dr. AUGUSTUS A. GOULD, of Boston, United States, to WM. THOMPSON, Esq., Belfast.*

“I wish there was some depôt established in the two countries through which small packages and pamphlets might at all times be received and forwarded. Though we have now weekly intercourse with England, it is scarcely once a year that we can get a pamphlet or little package transmitted safely. If such a thing can be done on your side, we will arrange something on this side. A box might be forwarded once a month, into which all our naturalists might place everything they wished to send, and thus all be sent to one address for distribution †. The same thing being done on both sides, very great trouble, expense and uncertainty would be avoided.”

* The author of a work on the ‘Invertebrata of Massachusetts,’ &c., and conjointly with Professor Agassiz of a small work lately published entitled ‘Principles of Zoology.’

† We fear that the great difficulty would be in the distribution of the various packages, &c. on their arrival, and in reimbursing any one who should undertake this office. Pamphlets are not unfrequently directed at a venture to persons who decline to receive or pay for them. No agency would be so fit for the purpose as the Post-office, if the governments of the two countries would agree upon suitable arrangements in the interests of literature and science.—Ed.